

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The portable traffic control device of claim 6 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said housing further comprises:

a base extending from said first end to said second end and extending from said first side to said second side, said base comprising a generally flat rectangular foundation, side pieces extending upward from said foundation along said first side and said second side, and end pieces extending upward from said foundation along said first end and said second end; and

a cover defining said top of said housing, wherein said cover attaches to said base, and wherein said plurality of openings penetrate said cover.

3. (Original) The portable traffic control device of claim 2, wherein said cover attaches to said side pieces of said base.

4. (Original) The portable traffic control device of claim 2, wherein said housing further comprises:

a plurality of reinforcing channels attached to said foundation, wherein each reinforcing channel has guiding recesses that receive said first shaft and said second shaft; and

a plurality of bushing clamps attached to said reinforcing channels, wherein each bushing clamp has recesses aligned with said guiding recesses, and wherein said guiding recesses and said recesses form channels through which said first shaft and said second shaft extend.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The portable traffic control device of claim 6 ~~claim 1~~, wherein in  
2 said first position each blade of said first plurality of blades extends generally upward  
3 from said first shaft toward said first side at an angle of about fifty degrees from said  
4 bottom of said housing, and wherein in said primary position each blade of said second  
5 plurality of blades extends generally upward from said second shaft toward said second  
6 side at an angle of about fifty degrees from said bottom of said housing.

1 6. (Currently Amended) ~~The portable traffic control device of claim 1, further comprising~~  
2 A portable traffic control device, comprising:

3 a housing comprising a length extending from a first end to a second end, a width  
4 extending from a first side to a second side, a height extending from a bottom to a top,  
5 and a plurality of openings on said top of said housing;

6 a first shaft rotatably connected to said housing and extending from about said  
7 first end to about said second end;

8 a second shaft rotatably connected to said housing and extending generally  
9 parallel to said first shaft from about said first end to about said second end;

10 a first plurality of blades connected to said first shaft, wherein each blade of said  
11 first plurality of blades has a first position extending generally upward through an  
12 opening of said plurality of openings in said housing and a second position extending  
13 generally horizontally within said housing;

14 a second plurality of blades connected to said second shaft, wherein each blade of  
15 said second plurality of blades has a primary position extending generally upward  
16 through an opening of said plurality of openings in said housing and a secondary position  
17 extending generally horizontally within said housing;

18 biasing means for urging each blade of said first plurality of blades to rotate  
19 toward said first position and each blade of said second plurality of blades to rotate  
20 toward said primary position; and

21 a rotating means for rotating said first shaft such that each blade of said first  
22 plurality of blades moves between said first position and said second position, and for

23 independently rotating said second shaft such that each blade of said second plurality of  
24 blades moves between said primary position and said secondary position.

1 7. (Original) The portable traffic control device of claim 6, wherein said rotating means is a  
2 rotary manual control box comprising:

3 a control box housing;

4 a first control shaft rotatably connected to said control box housing, wherein said  
5 first control shaft is connected to said first shaft such that rotation of said first control  
6 shaft results in a corresponding rotation of said first shaft;

7 a second control shaft rotatably connected to said control box housing, wherein  
8 said second control shaft is connected to said second shaft such that rotation of said  
9 second control shaft results in a corresponding rotation of said second shaft;

10 a first lever arm connected to said first control shaft; and

11 a second lever arm connected to said second control shaft.

1 8. (Original) The portable traffic control device of claim 7, wherein said first control shaft  
2 is detachably connected to said first shaft, and wherein said second control shaft is  
3 detachably connected to said second shaft.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The portable traffic control device of claim 6 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said  
2 housing, said first shaft, and said second shaft are detachably connectable to an other  
3 portable traffic control device of claim 6 ~~claim 1~~.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The portable traffic control device of claim 9, wherein said first  
2 end of said housing is screwed to said second end of said housing of said other portable  
3 traffic control device, and wherein said first shaft is connected to said first shaft of said  
4 other portable traffic control device using a coupler and a lock-tight screw ~~lock-tite~~, and  
5 wherein said second shaft is connected to said second shaft of said other portable traffic  
6 control device using a coupler and a lock-tight screw.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for using a portable traffic control device, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) placing a portable traffic control device across a surface traversed by wheeled vehicles, wherein said portable traffic control device comprises:

a housing comprising a length extending from a first end to a second end, a width extending from a first side to a second side, a height extending from a bottom to a top, and a plurality of openings on said top of said housing;

a first shaft rotatably connected to said housing and extending from about said first end to about said second end;

a second shaft rotatably connected to said housing and extending generally parallel to said first shaft from about said first end to about said second end;

a first plurality of blades connected to said first shaft, wherein each blade of said first plurality of blades has a first position extending generally upward through an opening of said plurality of openings in said housing and a second position extending generally horizontally within said housing;

a second plurality of blades connected to said second shaft, wherein each blade of said second plurality of blades has a primary position extending generally upward through an opening of said plurality of openings in said housing and a secondary position extending generally horizontally within said housing; and

biasing means for urging each blade of said first plurality of blades to rotate toward said first position and each blade of said second plurality of blades to rotate toward said primary position; and

a rotating means for rotating said first shaft such that each blade of said first plurality of blades moves between said first position and said second position, and for independently rotating said second shaft such that each blade of said second plurality of blades moves between said primary position and said secondary position;

- 28 (b) rotating said first shaft ~~and said second shaft to position as desired each blade of~~  
29 such that said first plurality of blades is in said first position ~~and each blade of~~  
30 ~~said second plurality of blades; and~~  
31 (c) locking said first plurality of blades in said first position.

- 1 13. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:  
2 (d) rotating said second shaft such that said second plurality of blades is in said first  
3 position; and  
4 (e) locking said second plurality of blades in said first position.

- 1 14. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:  
2 (d) securing said portable traffic control device to the surface before performing said  
3 steps (b) and (c).

- 1 15. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:  
2 (d) connecting a second portable traffic control device to said portable traffic control  
3 device before performing said step (b), such that a first shaft of said second  
4 portable traffic control device is in communication with said first shaft of said  
5 portable traffic control device and a second shaft of said second portable traffic  
6 control device is in communication with said second shaft of said portable traffic  
7 control device.

- 1 16. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:  
2 (d) unlocking said first plurality of blades from said first position; and  
3 (e) rotating said first shaft such that said first plurality of blades is in said second  
4 position.

- 1 17. (new) The portable traffic control device of claim 6, further comprising drainage means  
2 for draining water and debris from said housing.

1 18. (new) The portable traffic control device of claim 17, wherein said drainage means  
2 comprises one or more holes in said housing.

1 19. (new) The portable traffic control device of claim 6, wherein said biasing means  
2 comprises at least one torsion spring.

1 20. (new) The portable traffic control device of claim 7, wherein said rotary manual control  
2 box further comprises a means for locking in position said first level arm and said second  
3 lever arm.

1 21. (new) The portable traffic control device of claim 20, wherein said means for locking  
2 comprises:

3 a first locking arm in communication with said first lever arm; and

4 a second locking arm in communication with said second lever arm.

1 22. (new) The portable traffic control device of claim 6, further comprising a first means for  
2 locking said first plurality of blades in said first position and a second means for locking  
3 said second plurality of blades in said second position.